



# Tompkins County Election Worker News

Tompkins County  
Board of Elections

Spring 2005  
Volume 1, Issue 1

*"To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers."—Louis L'Amour*

## Greetings and Thanks!

Dear Inspector:

Thank you for your willingness to help administer elections in Tompkins County. It's not even a slight exaggeration to say we couldn't do it without you!

We've started this newsletter as a way to stay in touch, and bring you up to date on any changes in election law or voting procedures. We'll try to publish this a few times a year. It's very much a work in progress; please let us know how we can make this a useful publication for you.

Best Regards,

The "Reps"    The "Dems"

Elizabeth Cree, Commissioner    Stephen DeWitt, Commissioner

Kate Bortz, Deputy    Tom Paolangeli, Deputy

Krystal Hastings, Senior Clerk    Laura Owens, Senior Clerk

## HAVA CORNER: New Voting Machines?

As many of you know, big changes are coming in the next two years as we continue to implement the federal government's Help America Vote Act (HAVA). In each newsletter we will look at how some of these changes affect us. The biggest change coming is that we have to purchase new, electronic voting machines. Although our old lever-type mechanical machines have always been extremely reliable, they won't meet the new regulations requiring that voting machines be accessible to all citizens.

The federal government has earmarked more than \$200 million to help New York State purchase new machines. As of this writing, Albany has yet to pass the necessary legislation specifying exactly what we can purchase. Federal law says we have to have new machines in place for any federal elections in 2006. But for this year, it is almost certain that we will still be using our old lever-type machines for all our elections.

When we do finally get new machines, we will spend a lot of time working with you and the general public to make sure everyone is comfortable using them. The good news for you inspectors is that poll workers in other states report that they really like using the new electronic machines.

More news on back...

## Important Dates:

### **March 15:**

*Village Elections in Cayuga Heights, Dryden, Groton & Trumansburg. Polls open noon to 9 pm.*

### **April 26:**

*Lansing Village Election. Polls open noon to 9 pm*

### **September 13:**

*Primary Election. Polls open noon to 9 pm.*

### **November 8:**

*General Election. Polls open 6 am to 9 pm.*

## Tips for Election Day

Voters often get very confused when more than one district votes in the same place. If they're not in your poll-book, make sure to check the other table's pollbook. If they're not listed there, call us before sending them elsewhere or letting them vote affidavit.



## IMPORTANT: Update Your Information (Please)

Could you please let us know if you're still interested in working as an inspector this year? Contact information is in the column on the right. Also, we'd really like to have your email address, if you have one.

## Civic-Minded Citizens Needed

Recruiting Election Inspectors is a year round process for the Board of Elections. Perhaps you can help us. Do you have any friends or relatives who might be interested in learning to be an Inspector? We'd especially love to find younger citizens. Perhaps you have children (or grandchildren!) eighteen years old or older, who might be interested. As you already know, it's an excellent way to really see our democratic ideals in action, and give something back to our community. Have them call us, or let us know, and we'll call them.

## Changes at the Board

Dixie Chaffee, Republican Senior Clerk, has left the BOE to pursue her Master's Degree in Teaching and Sports Psychology at UNC Greensboro, NC. We'll all miss her cheerful smile and pleasant personality.

But we're happy to welcome Krystal Hastings as her replacement. Krystal previously worked at Ithaca College, and lives in Trumansburg. As our newest staff member, she has the unenviable but extremely important task of helping us catch up on our filing. Be sure to introduce yourself when you call or stop by the office.

### Contact Information:

#### Democratic Inspectors:

Call 274-5522, or email:

Stephen DeWitt -

[sdewitt@tompkins-co.org](mailto:sdewitt@tompkins-co.org)

Or Laura Owens -

[lowens@tompkins-co.org](mailto:lowens@tompkins-co.org)

#### Republican Inspectors:

Call 274-5521, or email:

Elizabeth Cree -

[ecree@tompkins-co.org](mailto:ecree@tompkins-co.org)

Or Kate Bortz

[kbortz@tompkins-co.org](mailto:kbortz@tompkins-co.org)

Check our Web site:

**[www.votetompkins.com](http://www.votetompkins.com)**,  
for information about upcoming and past elections.

---

*For questions or comments about this newsletter, contact Tom Paolangeli, 274-5522, or email: [tpaolangeli@tompkins-co.org](mailto:tpaolangeli@tompkins-co.org).*

---

Tompkins County Board of Elections

128 East Buffalo St.

Ithaca, NY 14850